

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

MEASURES FOR THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

1879—80.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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I N D E X.

| | Pages. |
|---|--------|
| Nos. 1, 2. Inquiry into the State of the Country - - - - | 1-5 |
| Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Correspondence relative to the Board of Works Notice of 22nd November 1879 - - - - | 6-11 |
| Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11. Correspondence relative to the Board of Works Notice of 12th January 1880, and to the creation of a fund of 250,000 <i>l.</i> for Advances in Distressed Districts - - - - | 11-18 |
| Nos. 12, 13. Correspondence relative to authorising works on presentment of Baronial Sessions, and to the enlargement of the advance fund to 500,000 <i>l.</i> - - - - - - | 18-26 |
| Nos. 14, 15, 16. Correspondence relative to the extension of the period for repayment of Drainage Loans under the Land Improvement Acts from 22 to 35 years - - - - | 26-29 |
| Nos. 17, 18. Correspondence relative to the Bill of Indemnity - - - | 29-30 |

Correspondence, &c. relative to Measures for the Relief of
Distress in Ireland, 1879-80.

No. 1.

CIRCULAR of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD to their INSPECTORS.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
5th September, 1879.

SIR,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland are desirous of obtaining information as to the potato crop throughout Ireland, and they request, therefore, that you will be so good as to report to them regarding the state of that crop in each county, or part of each county, comprised in your district.

It is also requested that you will include in your report such information as you may be enabled to obtain respecting the general harvest in each county, or part of each county, referred to, and that you will say whether it is probable that the supply of turf which may be saved by the peasantry this season will be sufficient for their wants during the next winter and spring.

The Board observe, by the statements of the numbers relieved at the latter end of August, that there were 4,474 persons in workhouses, and 3,645 persons on out-door relief in excess of the numbers relieved in the corresponding week of last year, and the Board would be glad to learn whether the present condition of the poorer classes in your district is such as to cause you to apprehend that there will be much distress and an unusual demand for relief during the coming winter.

The Board wish to receive your report in the first week in October,* and they hope this will afford you sufficient time to procure the necessary information on the subject.

By order of the Board,
B. BANKS, Secretary.

No. 2.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD to the IRISH GOVERNMENT.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
28th October, 1879.

SIR,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honour to forward to you herewith, for the information of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, copies of reports which they have recently received from their Inspectors respecting the state of the potato crop, the general harvest, the sufficiency of the supply of turf which may be saved by the peasantry for their wants during the next winter and spring, and the condition and prospects of the poor in their respective districts.

The Board also enclose an abstract of these reports arranged in provinces and counties.

In regard to the potato crop it will be seen that there is not much variation in the reports, and that it is described almost everywhere as deficient in quantity, inferior in quality, and affected by blight, and that upon the whole there will not be more than half an average crop.

The general harvest appears to be inferior and the crops deficient, and below those of last year; the oat crop, however, is everywhere reported to be good and plentiful. This applies to all the four provinces—the exceptions, in which the general harvest appears to be fair, being parts of Donegal and Londonderry, in the province of Ulster, parts of Cork and Limerick, in the province of Munster, and parts of Wicklow, in the province of Leinster.

The supply of turf appears to be everywhere greatly deficient, and much suffering and sickness is anticipated from this cause; a considerable quantity of turf is stated to have been cut this year, but it could not be saved owing to the continuous rain, and although much has been done in that respect

* Extended afterwards to October 15th.

during the past few weeks of fine weather, it is to be feared that, in general, the supply is not sufficient to last half through the winter and spring.

In parts of each of the four provinces it is stated that coal can be easily obtained at reasonable prices, but this will not benefit the poor in many districts in the western and midland counties where turf is the only fuel used.

In regard to the prospects of the poorer classes during the coming winter and spring it will be seen that in Ulster considerable distress and destitution, as well as increased demands for relief, may be expected owing to the failure of the turf supply, and to scarcity of employment; that in Munster much suffering and want is anticipated, and unusual demands for relief are expected during the winter months owing to want of employment, which is attributed to the straitened circumstances of the farmers in consequence of the Banks and Loan Companies having refused to make further advances of money, and to the low prices obtained for cattle and hutter.

In Leinster a large increase in the demands for relief is anticipated, the farmers not being in a position to pay labourers, and employment consequently being scarce. In Connaught also a serious amount of distress, and increased demand for relief, is expected during the coming winter. On the coast this is partly owing to the decline in the employment of kelp burning, and in other parts of the province it is due to the reduction in prices obtained for cattle and pigs, and to the farmers being deeply in debt to money-lenders and shopkeepers, and to the stoppage of their credit.

With the view of ascertaining the present rate of expenditure in the several Unions in Ireland, the Board directed the Union Clerks to furnish the usual annual statement on this subject at as early a date as possible; the Returns have not all been received, but the Board have obtained statements from the Unions in which the poor rates press more heavily than in others, and they annex a list of Unions in which the expenditure in the year ended 29th September 1878 amounted to or exceeded 2s. in the pound on the valuation, and showing also what the expenditure in these Unions has been in the year that has just passed. In more than half of these cases the expenditure in the year ended 29th September last exceeds the expenditure for the previous year.

The list comprises forty-five Unions, and in eleven of these Unions the expenditure, in the year ended the 29th ult., amounted to 3s. in the pound and upwards, viz. :—

Four Unions (Glenties, Caherciveen, Dingle, and Castlecomer) in which the expenditure has been over 3s. in the pound, but under 3s. 6d.

Three Unions (Castletown, Millstreet, and Oughterard) in which the expenditure has been 3s. 6d. in the pound or upwards, but under 4s. (Newport Union, from which the return has not been received, may probably be included in this class).

Three Unions (Kenmare, Clifden, and Belmullet) in which the expenditure has been over 4s.

The expenditure was highest in Belmullet Union, where it amounted to 4s. 5½d. in the pound, on a valuation of £10,952.

The increased expenditure above referred to was, no doubt, caused by the additional numbers receiving relief—the numbers relieved in the first week of October, 1878 and 1879, respectively, being as follows :—

| Week ending | In Workhouse. | Out-door. | Total. |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 5th October 1878 - - - | 43,773 | 32,951 | 76,724 |
| 4th October 1879 - - - | 48,682 | 35,557 | 84,239 |
| Excess of 1879 over 1878 - | 4,909 | 2,606 | 7,515 |

Thus showing an excess of 7,515 persons, or nearly ten per cent. on the whole number relieved. The following statement gives the proportions in which the increase in the numbers receiving Workhouse relief has taken place in each province, the per-centage of increase being greatest in Ulster and least in Leinster.

| Provinces. | Relieved in Workhouse &c. | | Increase. | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | 4th October 1875. | 3th October 1876. | Numbers. | Percentage. |
| Ulster - - | 10,261 | 9,072 | 1,189 | 13.1 |
| Munster - - | 17,906 | 16,269 | 1,637 | 10.4 |
| Leinster - - | 14,975 | 13,584 | 1,391 | 10.2 |
| Connaught - - | 6,480 | 4,848 | 632 | 13.0 |
| Total - - | 49,682 | 43,773 | 4,909 | 11.2 |

Although it may reasonably be anticipated, from the causes above mentioned, that there will be a considerable increase in pauperism during the winter season, there does not seem to be any reason to apprehend that the resources of the Poor Law Unions will, in general, be unequal to the demands on them; but in some of the Unions referred to, in which the expenditure has already reached sums such as 4s. and 4s. 5d. in the pound, the strain on the poor rates will, no doubt, become excessive if employment is not to be obtained by the labouring classes, and if there should be a much greater demand for relief. The want of employment, and the deficient supply of fuel, are the two principal features in the accompanying reports which the Board submit for His Grace's consideration, and both subjects are of vital importance at the present time as affecting the prospects of the poor during the coming winter, and the circumstances of many of the ratepayers in distressed districts.

By Order of the Board,
B. BANKS,
Secretary.

To T. H. Burke, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.
Dublin Castle.

| UNIONS. | Unions in which the expenditure in the year ended 30th September 1875 amounted to or exceeded 2s. in the pound on the valuation. | Expenditure in the pound in some Unions in the year ended 30th Sept. 1875. | UNIONS. | Unions in which the expenditure in the year ended 30th September 1876 amounted to or exceeded 2s. in the pound on the valuation. | Expenditure in the pound in some Unions in the year ended 30th Sept. 1875. |
|-------------------|--|--|--------------------|--|--|
| Co. DUBLIN. | s. d. | s. d. | Co. LIMERICK— | s. d. | s. d. |
| Droghda - - | 2 5½ | 2 5½ | continued. | | |
| Ghent - - | 3 1½ | 3 2½ | Limerick - - | 2 10½ | 2 9½ |
| Inchicore - - | 2 0½ | 2 2½ | Newcastle - - | 2 4 | 2 0½ |
| Co. CLARE. | | | Rathkeale - - | 2 6½ | 2 6 |
| Ballycaghlan - - | 2 9½ | 2 11½ | Co. TIPPERARY. | | |
| Corrofin - - | 2 8½ | 2 7½ | Clonmel - - | 2 4½ | 2 4½ |
| Ennis - - | 2 2 | 2 0½ | Co. WATERFORD. | | |
| Banistymon - - | 2 8½ | 2 8½ | Dungarvan - - | 2 9 | 2 8½ |
| Kilballyseret - - | 2 6½ | 2 6½ | Kilmore Thomas - - | 2 5½ | 2 6½ |
| Kilrush - - | 2 8 | 2 5½ | Waterford - - | 2 4½ | 2 1½ |
| Scariff - - | 2 7½ | 2 4½ | Co. DUBLIN. | | |
| Tulla - - | 2 8 | 2 8½ | Dublin, North - - | 2 3 | 2 5½ |
| Co. CORK. | | | Co. KILKENNY. | | |
| Bantry - - | 2 0½ | 2 0 | Castlemorris - - | 2 2 | 2 1 |
| Castletown - - | 4 0 | 3 9 | Kilkenny - - | 2 4½ | 2 4½ |
| Cork - - | 3 0½ | 2 10½ | Co. GALWAY. | | |
| Kesturk - - | 2 3½ | 2 5 | Clifden - - | 3 0 | 4 0½ |
| Millstreet - - | 3 6½ | 3 6 | Galway - - | 2 8 | 2 11 |
| Skibbereen - - | 2 8½ | 2 8½ | Oughterard - - | 3 7 | 3 7 |
| Skull - - | 2 4½ | 2 7½ | Co. LOUTH. | | |
| Youghal - - | 2 1½ | 2 0½ | Mohill - - | 2 2½ | 2 6½ |
| Co. KERRY. | | | Co. MAYO. | | |
| Cabertravoe - - | 3 1 | 3 5½ | Belmullet - - | 4 3 | 4 5½ |
| Dingle - - | 2 9½ | 3 0½ | Newport - - | 3 7 | — |
| Kenmare - - | 3 3 | 4 0½ | Swinsford - - | 2 4½ | 2 4½ |
| Kilgarney - - | 2 8½ | 2 9½ | Westport - - | 2 0 | 2 0½ |
| Tralee - - | 2 4½ | 2 8 | Co. ROSCOMMON. | | |
| Co. LIMERICK. | | | Roscommon - - | 2 0½ | 1 11½ |
| Glin - - | 2 4½ | 2 8 | | | |
| Kilmallock - - | 2 0 | 1 11½ | | | |

* Return not received.

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO THE TREASURY.

SIR,

Irish Office, 14th November 1879.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the accompanying copy of a circular recently addressed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to the Poor Law Guardians of each Union in Ireland enforcing on them the duty of providing in time for an unusual amount of distress which it is feared must be anticipated during the coming winter and spring in certain parts of the country, and for a consequent augmentation in the number of applications for relief.

His Grace desires me to state that in all probability there will be no sufficient resources in the rates to meet the whole of the expected distress in the districts so affected, and that money from some other source will be required in addition to save life and prevent famine.

His Grace is of opinion that the gratuitous distribution of the necessaries of life to the able-bodied population, even where it could be legally afforded, would be productive of very serious evils, and moreover that any system of what are generally known as public relief works is open to great objection and is calculated to lead to considerable abuse, and that it would therefore be far preferable that employment in the ordinary manner upon works of a reproductive or beneficial character should be afforded if possible by the land-owners in the localities so affected.

His Grace has reason, however, to anticipate that owing to various causes with which their Lordships are doubtless familiar, the landlords of Ireland, as a rule, are not at the present moment in a position to furnish the necessary means for embarking in any undertakings which would involve the expenditure of ready money, and that in the great majority of cases there would probably be a disinclination to assume obligations which would necessitate the repayment of advances during the next two or three years.

His Grace accordingly suggests that in those cases in which landlords in the districts affected are ready to undertake such works and find employment for the able-bodied population the money should be lent upon favorable terms both as regards the time at which payment of interest and repayment of principal should commence, and also the period over which the repayments should be extended.

His Grace would further propose that the money required should be advanced in the first instance by the Treasury, to be repaid hereafter with the consent of Parliament out of the surplus funds of the Irish Church.

As it is of very great importance that the arrangements now proposed to be made with the view of meeting the anticipated distress should be promulgated without delay, I am to request that you will be so good as to submit His Grace's proposals to their Lordships' earliest and favourable consideration.

I am, &c.

The Secretary to the Treasury.

(Signed) JAMES LOWTHER.

Enclosure in No. 3.

COPY OF CIRCULAR TO BOARDS OF GUARDIANS.

The Local Government Board desire to inform the Board of Guardians that they have had under consideration the reports of their Inspectors on the condition and prospects of the poor in Ireland, from which they learn that there will probably be an unusual amount of distress in parts of the country during the coming winter, and an increased number of application for relief.

Under these circumstances the Local Government Board have to impress upon the Board of Guardians the importance of being prepared for the possible contingencies of the season, and of making due provision, beforehand, of ample stores of bedding and clothing to meet any degree of pressure on the Workhouse which is likely to occur; they should also give directions to have

the unoccupied wards in the Workhouse thoroughly cleansed and white-washed, and placed in every respect in good and habitable order.

The Local Government Board would also recommend the Board of Guardians to take into consideration the number and extent of the relief districts in their Union, and to ascertain whether the Relieving Officers would be in a position to discharge their important duties efficiently should the condition of the poorer classes render it necessary to afford relief out of the Workhouse more freely than at present.

It is of the utmost importance, in the interests both of the ratepayers and of the poor, that the functions of the Relieving Officer should be properly performed, and that these officers should always be accessible to destitute persons residing in all parts of their districts: these objects cannot be attained if the districts are not of moderate size, and the Local Government Board hope that, in the view of the possible increased pressure of distress, the Board of Guardians will consider whether the existing relief districts in their Union require revision.

The Local Government Board feel assured that they may rely on the Board of Guardians to make all the arrangements which may be necessary for the effectual administration of the existing laws for the relief of the poor in their Union during the winter season.

No. 4.

The TREASURY to the IRISH GOVERNMENT.

SIR, Treasury Chambers, 14th November 1879.

I AM directed by my Lords to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date enclosing a copy of the Circular addressed by the Local Government Board to the Poor Law Guardians. My Lords entirely concur in the propriety of this step.

It appears to my Lords to be most desirable that the Local Government Board should watch closely the state of the poor in those Unions where there seems any reason for anticipating exceptional distress, and should cause their Inspectors to make frequent and regular reports to the Irish Government.

Should the Irish Government be of opinion that, in order to enable the Local Government Board to perform its functions satisfactorily, more assistance is required, my Lords will be prepared at once to sanction the temporary appointment of additional Inspectors or Sub-Inspectors.

With regard to the suggestions made by the Lord Lieutenant for giving exceptional encouragement to the employment of the people in the distressed districts by means of increased facilities for borrowing public money for expenditure on works of utility, my Lords are prepared to direct the Board of Works to issue a Circular reminding landowners, Boards of Guardians, and other Authorities of the powers given to them under various Acts of Parliament to borrow money for the several purposes mentioned therein; and to state that the Board of Works are ready to facilitate and expedite, as far as possible, the proceedings preliminary to the grant of such advances, and to provide (in the case of such districts as may be specially reported upon by the Local Government Board and certified by the Irish Government to be in an exceptionally distressed condition) that the cost of such preliminary proceedings, instead of being demanded of the borrowers in the first instance or deducted from the first instalments, may be charged to the principal of the loans.

My Lords think it desirable that the Circular to be issued by the Board of Works should be very carefully worded, and they will at once instruct them to prepare for submission to the Treasury the draft of a Circular to the foregoing effect.

The Lord Lieutenant will observe that it is not in the power of the Treasury to defer, or to prolong, by their own authority, the period for the repayment of the loans. That must be a question for Parliament. My Lords would, however, be ready to receive and to give their most careful

consideration to any recommendation which the Lord Lieutenant may make in respect of particular cases with a view to decide whether Parliament should be asked to afford any relief in this direction. The circumstances of each case which His Grace may so recommend should be very fully stated.

Until my Lords are able to submit to the Irish Government the precise Circular which they authorize the Board of Works to issue, they think it advisable that no announcement of a more specific character should be made public than that the Government have the subject under their anxious consideration, and hope in the course of a very few days to be in a position to put forward a statement of the measures they contemplate.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. R. W. LINGEN.

No. 5.

NOTICE issued by the COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND, under instructions from the TREASURY, dated the 22nd November 1879.

Notice is hereby given that, in view of the anticipated distress during the approaching winter in certain Poor Law Unions in Ireland (to be designated as herein-after is set forth) amongst the labouring population, the Board of Public Works are authorised by Her Majesty's Government to offer to land-owners, in cases falling within any such Unions as may be advertised from time to time, by the authority of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, in the Dublin Gazette, the following facilities and advantages in obtaining loans under the Land Improvement Acts with a view to early application for the same, so as to afford immediate employment for the labouring classes within reach of their homes, viz:—

1. The proceedings, including plans, &c., which the owner applying for a loan has now to undertake at his own expense under S. xi. of the Act 10 & 11 Vict. c. 32, will so far be put on the same footing as those which the Board of Public Works are authorised to undertake under S. xiii., that the Board will provide Surveyors, &c. when they are requested to do so, and will defray the expense out of the Vote of Credit on account of Loans for Public Works, Ireland.

All moneys so advanced will be added to the principal of the loan, subject to the paragraph next herein-after following.

2. The postponement of the first instalment of repayment of the loan for two years from the date of the advance, the interest accruing during that period being made an addition to the principal.

3. The extension of the period for repayment from 22 to 24 years reckoned from the date of the advance in cases now limited to that period, and to 37 years in those other cases in which 35 years is allowed.

4. These advantages, it is to be clearly understood, will not be extended to any loans applied for after the 31st January 1880, nor to any loans of which at least two instalments have not been paid before 30th June 1880—nor will they apply to loans sought for in respect of buildings, but only to loans for drainage, planting, and other works calculated to afford general employment to unskilled labour which can be immediately set on foot in districts in which a want of employment shall be declared to prevail, and carried out with the energy which the urgency of the circumstances demand, and to which the advantages offered are solely due.

5. The Unions in question as at present determined by the Irish Government will be found named in the Schedule attached to this Notice,—it being understood that other Unions may be added hereafter should the necessity arise.

6. Notice is further given that, where loans may be sought for by Boards of Guardians, or other public authorities, in Unions to be so designated as aforesaid, or which are near enough to employ the poor in Unions so designated, for Sanitary or other works of improvement duly provided for by Act of Parliament, through the Local Government Board, they will, on that Board's

recommendation—though not provided for in the current year's Loans Vote—receive immediate attention.

7. On the like recommendation also, the payment of the first instalments in repayment of loans granted in respect of works within the designated Unions may be postponed for a period not exceeding two years from the date of the advance, the interest accruing in the intervening period being added to the principal sum to be repaid. The Local Government Board is authorised to deal with the cost of preliminary proceedings in the same manner *mutatis mutandis* as is described in paragraph 1 of this Notice.

8. So far as the advantages offered by this Notice require legislative sanction, it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to apply for it as soon as Parliament reassembles.

SCHEDULE.

| County. | Unions. | County. | Unions. | County. | Unions. |
|---------|---|---------|---|-----------|--|
| DONOGAL | Ballyshannon. Donagh. Dunfinghy. Glenties. Inishowen. Letterkeney. Miford. Stranorlar. | CLAKE | Ballyvaughan. Corcfin. Ecora. Ennistymon. Kilbeggan. Kilrush. Kilrush. Tulla. | DALWAY | Ballyvaughan. Clifton. Galway. Glenties. Gort. Loughrea. Mount Bellew. Oughterard. Portlanna. Tulla. |
| | | CORK | Bandon, W. R. Bantry, W. R. Castletown, W. R. Coushill, W. R. Dunmore, W. R. Macroom, W. R. Midleton, W. R. Skibbereen, W. R. Skib, W. R. | LESTHRIM | Car-on-Shannon. Manorhamilton. Mebill. |
| | | KERRY | Cahersiveen. Dingle. Kenmare. Killybeggy. Listowel. Tralee. | MAYO | Ballina. Ballinacorney. Ballinacorney. Castles. Chesham. Clontarf. Killybeggy. Newport. Swinford. Westport. |
| | | | | ROSCOMMON | Boyle. Castles. Roscommon. Stranorlar. |
| | | | | SLIGO | Donmore West. Sligo. Tubberary. |

No. 6.

The IRISH GOVERNMENT to the TREASURY.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 18th November 1879.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that His Grace, having referred your letter of the 14th instant (No. 18813/79), on the subject of relief of distress in Ireland, to the Local Government Board, has received from that Board a Report, copy of which is herewith enclosed.

His Grace trusts that their Lordships will at once authorise the appointment of 3 additional Inspectors on the understanding that their services will be dispensed with when no longer necessary, and at a salary of 500*l.* per annum with travelling expenses and an allowance of one pound one shilling per night when absent from Head Quarters.

His Grace fully shares the gratification of the Local Government Board, at hearing that their Lordships are pleased to extend to Boards of Guardians and other authorities the advantages which are to be offered to landowners, and would be glad to be furnished with a copy of the Circular to be issued by the Board of Works.

I am, &c.

The Secretary, Treasury.

(Signed) JAMES LOWTHER.

Enclosure to No. 6.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
18th November 1879.

Sir,

THE Local Government Board for Ireland have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a file of papers which was referred to them on the 17th instant, containing a letter from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Chief Secretary on the subject of the relief of distress in Ireland.

The Board will instruct the Inspectors who have charge of Unions, where there seems any reason for anticipating exceptional distress, to watch closely the state of the poor therein, and to make frequent and regular reports to the Board on the subject for the information of the Irish Government.

The Board are of opinion that it is necessary, for the proper supervision of the Poor Law in the West of Ireland, to strengthen the staff of Inspectors by the employment of these additional Inspectors who might be appointed on the understanding that their services will be dispensed with when no longer required.

The Board contemplate stationing one of these additional Inspectors in the Co. Donegal—another in the West of the Co. Mayo, with part of the Co. Galway in his district,—and the third in the Co. Kerry; and with the view of enabling the permanent Inspectors now stationed in these Counties to give their undivided attention to the Unions which will remain in their charge, they will be relieved from the ordinary supervision of the Unions in the new districts, but may from time to time be called upon by the Board to visit them, should circumstances arise which will render such a course necessary or advisable.

Having regard to the fact that the nature of the work of the permanent and additional Inspectors will be the same, and that the latter will have very arduous and responsible duties to perform, the Board would recommend that they should be paid on the same scale as the junior permanent Inspectors on appointment, and that the salary should be at the rate of 500*l.* a year with travelling expenses, and an allowance of 1*l.* 1*s.* a night when absent from the place which may be named by the Board as the Head Quarters of the district.

With reference to that part of your Minute in which you inform the Board that His Grace would be glad to receive their observations as to the districts which may be considered to be in an exceptionally distressed condition, the Board, desire to state that, as the want of employment is general throughout Ireland, it is difficult at present to define the particular districts in which the labouring population are especially in need of assistance, but, taking the reports of their Inspectors, as well as the amount of the poor rates, and other circumstances into consideration, the Board think that the whole of the Province of Connaught—the County Donegal in Ulster—and the Counties Clare, Kerry, and West Riding of Cork in Munster might at present be deemed distressed districts for the purpose of affording facilities for borrowing money for expenditure on works of utility, subject to revision hereafter, should it appear necessary in the progress of events to include other Counties or Unions in the same category.

No. 7.

THE TREASURY TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 20th November 1879.

IN reply to your letter of the 18th instant, relative to measures required for the relief of distress in Ireland, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request you to inform His Grace the Lord Lieutenant that My Lords agree to the appointment of three Inspectors as additional to the establishment of the Local Government Board, on the understanding that their services will be dispensed with when no longer necessary, and at a salary of 500*l.* per annum, with travelling expenses, and an allowance of 1*l.* 1*s.* per night when absent from Head Quarters.

My Lords recognise in the proposal to grant such liberal salaries the importance which His Grace attaches to securing the services of gentlemen of adequate ability, experience, and character.

My Lords cannot but think that some definition of a distressed Union ought to be prescribed, such as the ratio which the poor rate bears to the rateable value of the Union, the amount of accommodation unoccupied in the Workhouses, &c.

My Lords have no information before them which induces them to think that employment can be said to be wanting throughout Ireland in any such sense as to require the interference of Government to stimulate it, except in exceptional districts.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. R. W. LINGEN.

No. 8.

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO THE TREASURY.

STR, Dublin Castle, January 10, 1880.

ADVERTISING to previous correspondence relative to the measures to be taken for the relief of distress in Ireland, I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that his Grace considers that the time has now arrived to enlarge and extend the facilities and advantages offered under the notice issued on the 22nd November last for obtaining loans under the Land Improvement Acts, excluding buildings, and the Public Health Act, with a view to affording additional encouragement to the immediate employment of unskilled labour in those Poor Law Unions in Ireland in which distress now exists, and which have been or may be named in the schedules published or hereafter to be published.

Experience having proved that the terms offered in the aforesaid notice have not been sufficient to meet the exigencies of the case, his Grace would strongly recommend that further facilities be given, and I enclose a further notice* which embodies his Grace's views on the subject, and am to state that he earnestly hopes that their Lordships will be pleased to approve of same, and to authorise the Board of Works to issue same, offering loans on the terms and in the manner therein set forth.

His Grace attaches much importance to this notice being issued with as little delay as possible, and if their Lordships will kindly telegraph the necessary authority to the Board of Works early on Monday morning next, a notification of the notice might appear in the morning papers of Tuesday, and the notice itself be published in the "Dublin Gazette" of that day.

The Secretary, Treasury,
Whitehall, S.W.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAMES LOWTHER.

No. 9.

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 12TH JANUARY 1880.

MY LORDS read a letter from the Chief Secretary for Ireland, dated the 10th January 1880, stating that the Lord Lieutenant considers that the time has now arrived to enlarge and extend the facilities and advantages offered under the notice issued on the 22nd November last, for obtaining loans under the Land Improvement Acts (excluding buildings) and the Public Health Act, with a view to afford additional encouragement to the immediate employment of unskilled labour in those Poor Law Unions in Ireland in which distress now exists, and which have been or which may be named in the Schedules published or hereafter to be published by the Irish Government.

A notice is enclosed in this letter embodying his Grace's proposals. It states that loans will be granted without interest for the first two years, and at a rate of one per cent. thereafter. The period for the repayment of loans for all purposes provided by the Land Improvement Acts will be 35 years, exclusive of the two years for which no interest is to be charged, the practical effect being that landowners will pay nothing for the first two years after the grant of each loan, and an annual sum, in discharge both of principal and

* See No. 10, p. 15.

interest, of 3*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per cent. thereafter for 35 years, commencing at the expiration of two years from the date of grant.

Sanitary authorities will obtain loans at the uniform rate of interest of one per cent. per annum, the time of repayment being determined, as heretofore, under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

These provisions are to extend to loans applied for and obtained under the conditions of the notice of the Board of Works, dated 22nd November last.

Application for loans on the above-named conditions may be made up to the 28th (29th) February next, and the period of expenditure under these conditions will extend to the 31st July next inclusive. Such are the terms of the proposed notice.

The First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer state to the Board that Her Majesty's advisers have had under consideration the distressed condition of Her Majesty's subjects in certain districts of Ireland. They are satisfied that the local authorities and the Government itself are unable, under the provisions of the existing law, to relieve the distress effectually, and they have therefore advised Her Majesty to afford relief by offering loans on terms which they hope will induce landowners and sanitary authorities at once to employ the distressed poor in such districts on useful works. The Lord Lieutenant has accordingly been instructed to suggest a measure giving effect to this advice, and the letter before their Lordships is the result of these instructions.

The First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer point out to the Board that the Land Improvement Acts authorise loans—

1. For the improvement of land by means of drainage, subsoiling, irrigation, fencing;
2. For building or enlarging farm buildings in connexion therewith;
3. For the erection and improvement of dwellings for agricultural labourers; and
4. For the erection of scutch mills, and supplying them with water.

These loans bear by law interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. and are required to be repaid by a rentcharge of 6½ per cent., paying off principal and interest in 22 years, but in the cases of loans for all buildings, clearing land of rocks, and planting for shelter, the repayment may, under the Act 29 & 30 Vict. c. 40., be extended over 35 years in annual instalments, including principal and interest, of 5 per cent.

On the other hand, the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 41 & 42 Vict. c. 52., empowers the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with the consent of the Treasury, on the application of any sanitary authority, and on the recommendation of the Local Government Board, to make loans to such authority bearing interest at the rate of 3½ per cent., or such other rate as may in the judgment of the Treasury be necessary in order to save the Exchequer from loss, such loans being repayable within a period not exceeding 50 years.

It is evident that these provisions do not authorise the Government to afford relief to the distressed districts upon the terms which Her Majesty's advisers have already sanctioned, and which, subject to modification in details, are contained in the letter before the Board. The Board will, therefore, understand that Her Majesty's advisers have resolved to act in excess of the powers entrusted to them by the law, and that application will be made to Parliament immediately on its reassembling for indemnity.

As, then, the action of the Government is outside the law, it is necessary to consider the course of proceeding by which effect can be given to their decision; and the First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have accordingly recommended that the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland be instructed, upon the responsibility of the Government, to make advances in general accordance with the conditions indicated by the Lord Lieutenant up to a total sum of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds. Application for these loans will, of course, only be entertained if proceeding from landowners or sanitary authorities within, and on account of, the distressed districts as scheduled from time to time. They must be made on or before the 29th February next, instead of the 31st January, as stated in paragraph 4 of the notice issued by the Office of Public Works on the 22nd November last; and sufficient progress must be made to admit of at least two instalments of the loan being paid before the 31st July next, instead of the 30th June, as limited in the same paragraph.

The Commissioners of Public Works will make advances out of moneys in their hands, until an Act is passed legalising the action of the Government and making provision for the necessary expenditure.

The First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer add that the measures which they contemplate are not taken with a view to the promotion of public works, and do not fall within the intention of the Land Improvements Acts and the Public Health Act, but are measures for the relief, on the least demoralising principle, of the distressed subjects of Her Majesty, and they thus satisfy the requirements of the 68th section of the Irish Church Act, 1869. Her Majesty's advisers have, therefore, determined to ask Parliament to charge the cost, up to the amount of 250,000*l.*, upon the surplus proceeds of the Church property subject to the existing debt to the National Debt Commissioners, and to the charges of 1,000,000*l.* for intermediate education in Ireland, and of 1,300,000*l.* appropriated to pensions of National School Teachers in Ireland. It will be desirable, in consequence, that a letter should be written to the Irish Church Commissioners, inviting their co-operation in the preparation of a measure for that purpose, to be submitted to Parliament in February next.

Lastly, the First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer recommend that the sanction of the Board be given to the proposals of the Irish Government with the following amendments of the draft notice:—

Preamble, line 4, omit "excluding buildings" after "Land Improvement Acts," and insert "excluding buildings in all cases" after "Public Health Act."

In paragraph 1, line 1, after "loans" insert "not exceeding a total sum of 250,000*l.*"

In paragraph 1, sub-head 2, line 1, after "all purposes" insert "other than building."

In paragraph II., sub-head (δ), line 1, after "obtain loans" insert "for purposes other than building."

In paragraph IV., line 2, for "28th February" insert "29th February."

It should be clearly stated in any notice put out by the Irish Government that the sum set aside for the purpose of relief is not to exceed 250,000*l.*, and, as the relief is especially intended for the relief of unskilled labour, building operations which usually require skilled labour should be excluded.

My Lords concur.

(1.) Write to the Chief Secretary for Ireland:—

Sir,

12th January 1880.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state to you, for the information of his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, that they have considered the proposals contained in your letter of the 10th instant, and that they learn from the First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer that those proposals are generally in accordance with the counsel tendered to Her Majesty by her advisers.

I am to say that my Lords regard the measure not as taken with a view to the promotion of public works in Ireland, but as affording relief, upon the least demoralising principle, to the distressed subjects of Her Majesty. They do not, therefore, think it necessary to apply to it the criticism which its conditions would invite, if recommended on simple financial grounds. They accordingly authorise the issue of the draft notice.

But it should be made clear that the immediate object of the Government is the relief of unskilled labour deprived for the moment of the means of supporting itself. They therefore consider that the loans, both in the case of improvement of land and in that of sanitary works, should not be advanced for the purpose of buildings. Further, they think that it should be generally known that the authorised sum is limited to 250,000*l.*; and they have made a trifling change in extending the time for application to the 29th instead of the 28th of February, this being leap year.

The necessary authority for issuing the order has been telegraphed to the Board of Works, to whom an official letter will also be addressed this evening.

B 3

His Grace is of course aware that the measure thus adopted is in excess of the powers entrusted to the Government by the law, and that it will be necessary, therefore, to apply to Parliament for a Bill of Indemnity.

A copy of a minute of this Board which accompanies this letter will show his Grace how my Lords intend to provide the funds required as an advance in the first instance, and also how it is proposed to adjust such advance.

In the meantime it would be well that his Grace, in communication with the Board of Works, should direct that a Bill of Indemnity be prepared, and that he should forward the draft without delay to the Board.

I am to request that a schedule of the distressed districts stating population, area, and rateable value may be furnished to this Board, and that supplementary returns may be furnished as from time to time other districts may be scheduled.

I am, &c.,

(2.) Write to the Board of Works, Ireland :—

12th January 1880.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that they have received from the Chief Secretary for Ireland a draft notice extending and enlarging the facilities and advantages offered under your notice issued on the 22nd November last, for obtaining loans under the Land Improvement and Public Health Acts.

I am to inform you that this order is in accordance with the counsel which Her Majesty's advisers have tendered to Her Majesty for the relief of Her distressed subjects, and my Lords are therefore pleased to sanction its issue in the amended form which they forward herewith.

It must be understood that they regard the measure not as taken with a view to the promotion of public works, but as affording relief, in the least demoralising manner, to unskilled labourers deprived for the time of earning the means of subsistence. It is, therefore, an exceptional proposal of relief, and is not subject to the criticism which its provision would invite if submitted on ordinary financial grounds.

You will observe that the sum to be issued under the notice is limited to 250,000*l.*, which in the first instance, and until further funds are provided, you will advance from the credit of 850,000*l.* granted to you by the Public Works Loans Act of last session. My Lords are aware that you have no authority to advance money on the conditions named; but they of course hold themselves responsible for your acts, and they will ask Parliament, immediately on its re-assembling, for an indemnity.

Looking at the object in view, they think it right to exclude from the measure all loans for building purposes, as requiring skilled labour.

I am to instruct you to act in accordance with the conditions of the notice from the time of its issue, and I am to desire you to send a copy of it, as soon as it is in print, to this Board.

I am, &c.

(3.) Write to the Irish Church Temporalities Commissioners :—

MY LORDS,

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to inform you that Her Majesty's advisers have counselled Her Majesty to extend relief to Her subjects in certain distressed districts of Ireland, in the shape of loans on special and favourable terms for improvement of land and for sanitary objects. For that purpose they have instructed the Board of Works to issue money, in the first instance, out of the funds at their disposal; but it appears to Her Majesty's advisers that this is a case the charge of which may fairly be defrayed out of the surplus of the Irish Church, and they intend to make a proposal to Parliament to that effect. I am therefore to forward to you a copy of a Treasury Minute upon the subject, dated January 12, 1880, and I am to ask you to favour my Lords with your views as to the manner in which the funds required will be best provided.

I am to add that the Public Works Commissioners have no legal authority to employ the funds entrusted to them on loans of the character now in contemplation. It will be necessary, therefore, to ask Parliament for an indemnity, and to replace to the Commissioners of Public Works before the 31st March next any advances which have been made.

I am, &c.

January 12, 1880.

No. 10.

NOTICE issued by the COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND, dated the 12th January 1880.

Notice is hereby given that Her Majesty's Government have authorised the Board of Public Works to enlarge and extend the facilities and advantages offered under the notice issued on the 22d November last for obtaining loans under the Land Improvement Acts and the Public Health Act, excluding buildings in all cases, with a view to affording additional encouragement to the immediate employment of unskilled labour in those Poor Law Unions in Ireland in which distress now exists or is anticipated, and which have been or may be named in the Schedules published or hereafter to be published.

I. Loans, not exceeding a total sum of 250,000*l.*, will be granted on the following conditions:—

- (1.) No interest to be charged for the first two years, and the interest thereafter to be at the rate of one per cent. per annum.
- (2.) The period for the repayment of loans for all purposes, other than building, provided for by the Land Improvement Acts to be extended to 35 years, exclusive of the two years for which no interest is to be charged.

II. The practical effect of the foregoing provisions will be:—

- (a.) As regards landowners, that the annual instalments in repayment of such loans will be at the rate of 3*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* per cent., including principal and interest for 35 years, to commence two years after grant of loan.
- (b.) As regards sanitary authorities, that they will obtain loans for purposes other than building at the uniform rate of interest of one per cent., the time of repayment being determined, as heretofore, under provisions of the Public Health Act.

III. The above provisions will extend to loans which have been applied for and obtained under the conditions of the Board of Works' notice of 22nd November last.

IV. The period over which loans offering the above advantages may be applied for is extended from the 31st January (instant) to the 29th February inclusive, and the period of expenditure from 30th June to 31st July inclusive.

No. 11.

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT to the TREASURY.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 24th January 1880.

WITH reference to the last paragraph of your letter of the 12th instant, in which you signify the desire of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to be furnished with a schedule of the distressed districts in Ireland, stating population, area, and rateable value of same, I am directed by the Lords Justices to transmit to you herewith, for the information of their Lordships, copy of a letter which has been received from the Local Government Board, Ireland, giving the required return up to the 13th instant, and stating that similar supplemental returns will be furnished from time to time.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary, Treasury.

T. H. BURKE.

Inclosure to No. 11.

Local Government Board, Dublin,
20th January 1880.

Sir,

With reference to that part of your letter of the 13th instant in which you signify the desire of their Excellencies the Lords Justices to be furnished with a return, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, showing the unions scheduled up to the date of your letter, with the population, area, and rateable value in each case, the Local Government Board for Ireland forward to you herewith a return containing the particulars required.

Supplementary returns, showing similar particulars in regard to unions, which may be hereafter scheduled, will be furnished from time to time as desired.

By order of the Board,
(Signed) B. BANKS,
Secretary.

To T. H. Burke, Esq.,
Dublin Castle.

LIST of UNIONS Scheduled under BOARD OF WORKS NOTICE, up to
13th January 1880.

| UNION. | Area in Statute Acres. | Population 1871. | Valuation on 29th Sept. 1875. |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Co. DUBLIN : | | | £ |
| Ballyshannon - - - - | 182,310 | 28,308 | 50,683 |
| Donegal - - - - - | 160,406 | 27,716 | 34,387 |
| Dunfonghy - - - - - | 126,678 | 16,477 | 11,535 |
| Glenkie - - - - - | 257,479 | 37,930 | 30,169 |
| Inishowen - - - - - | 169,412 | 35,374 | 38,107 |
| Letterkenny - - - - | 101,247 | 17,118 | 31,185 |
| Milford - - - - - | 111,884 | 25,819 | 29,928 |
| Stranorlar - - - - - | 121,151 | 18,611 | 30,198 |
| | 1,169,014 | 207,848 | 247,148 |
| Co. CLARE : | | | |
| Ballyvaughan - - - - | 71,063 | 5,712 | 19,916 |
| Corrofin - - - - - | 61,886 | 7,090 | 20,426 |
| Ennis - - - - - | 102,505 | 26,530 | 74,168 |
| Ennistymon - - - - - | 99,281 | 23,365 | 37,008 |
| Killedystert - - - - | 62,319 | 12,311 | 26,114 |
| Kilrush - - - - - | 126,788 | 25,978 | 52,660 |
| Scarriff - - - - - | 86,320 | 14,151 | 25,802 |
| Tulla - - - - - | 84,723 | 13,763 | 33,508 |
| | 704,385 | 136,793 | 266,502 |
| Co. CORK : | | | |
| Bandon - - - - - | 101,345 | 28,739 | 73,790 |
| Bantry - - - - - | 106,855 | 16,330 | 21,747 |
| Castletown - - - - - | 73,445 | 14,326 | 12,255 |
| Cleanakilly - - - - - | 80,464 | 26,849 | 50,946 |
| Dummanway - - - - - | 103,917 | 17,696 | 33,306 |
| Kanturk - - - - - | 186,518 | 32,796 | 77,351 |
| Macroom - - - - - | 179,108 | 30,644 | 63,366 |
| Mallow - - - - - | 154,358 | 31,112 | 106,436 |
| Millstreet - - - - - | 74,906 | 14,592 | 27,921 |
| Mitcheistown - - - - | 96,937 | 20,745 | 49,118 |
| Skibbereen - - - - - | 115,094 | 31,386 | 46,210 |
| Skull - - - - - | 67,169 | 18,199 | 18,210 |
| | 1,320,066 | 275,223 | 577,795 |

| UNION. | Area in Statute Acres. | Population 1871. | Valuation on 25th Sept. 1872. |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Co. KERRY : | | | |
| Cahiriveen - - - - | 197,545 | 25,148 | 22,896 |
| Dingle - - - - | 125,979 | 20,245 | 22,883 |
| Kennara - - - - | 198,152 | 18,848 | 19,459 |
| Killarney - - - - | 251,287 | 44,443 | 76,169 |
| Listowel - - - - | 151,808 | 34,583 | 32,656 |
| Trillick - - - - | 221,847 | 49,837 | 86,238 |
| | 1,145,316 | 192,295 | 250,301 |
| Co. LIMERICK : | | | |
| Croom - - - - | 83,324 | 17,061 | 63,760 |
| Kilmallock - - - - | 140,356 | 35,186 | 136,986 |
| Rathkeale - - - - | 79,932 | 17,881 | 36,252 |
| | 303,612 | 70,128 | 237,018 |
| Co. TIPPERRARY : | | | |
| Cashel - - - - | 156,822 | 29,392 | 107,390 |
| Tipperary - - - - | 179,967 | 42,931 | 142,861 |
| | 336,809 | 72,323 | 250,251 |
| Co. LONGFORD : | | | |
| Granard - - - - | 124,003 | 33,633 | 85,699 |
| | | | |
| Co. WESTMEATH : | | | |
| Athlone - - - - | 100,768 | 33,612 | 98,467 |
| | | | |
| Co. GALWAY : | | | |
| Ballinasloe - - - - | 160,507 | 24,291 | 78,468 |
| Clifden - - - - | 192,965 | 25,231 | 17,970 |
| Galway - - - - | 197,467 | 44,022 | 69,120 |
| Glennasmaddy - - - - | 100,214 | 20,274 | 31,800 |
| Gort - - - - | 107,919 | 17,973 | 43,135 |
| Loughrea - - - - | 198,832 | 26,402 | 76,216 |
| Mount Bellew - - - - | 102,383 | 16,423 | 40,478 |
| Oughterard - - - - | 172,745 | 19,691 | 14,897 |
| Portumna - - - - | 77,046 | 12,906 | 35,506 |
| Tuen - - - - | 190,649 | 41,224 | 76,963 |
| | 1,509,797 | 250,437 | 461,553 |
| Co. LEXTER : | | | |
| Carriek-on-Shannon - - - - | 100,756 | 28,115 | 38,280 |
| Monaghan - - - - | 144,847 | 30,667 | 41,499 |
| Mohill - - - - | 92,955 | 27,713 | 39,634 |
| | 338,558 | 86,495 | 119,413 |
| Co. MAYO : | | | |
| Ballina - - - - | 150,415 | 30,911 | 50,053 |
| Ballinrobe - - - - | 144,894 | 29,276 | 60,230 |
| Belmullet - - - - | 177,983 | 15,758 | 10,939 |
| Castlebar - - - - | 140,998 | 32,171 | 46,675 |
| Clonsilla - - - - | 110,788 | 31,300 | 42,300 |
| Killala - - - - | 104,882 | 10,242 | 20,633 |
| Newport - - - - | 170,412 | 16,061 | 13,122 |
| Swineford - - - - | 162,694 | 28,540 | 40,632 |
| Westport - - - - | 175,508 | 24,766 | 31,108 |
| | 1,386,424 | 244,085 | 313,692 |

| Unions. | Area in Statute Acres. | Population, 1871. | Valuation on 29th Sept. 1876. |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Co. Roscommon: | | | |
| Boyle - - - - | 159,696 | 44,340 | 73,741 |
| Castleca - - - | 162,363 | 44,237 | 72,494 |
| Roscommon - - | 114,056 | 22,458 | 64,494 |
| Strickstown - - | 90,036 | 23,545 | 60,839 |
| | 526,151 | 134,580 | 261,568 |
| Co. Sligo: | | | |
| Dromore, West - - | 96,985 | 17,742 | 36,839 |
| Sligo - - - - | 145,523 | 47,750 | 98,069 |
| Toberry - - - - | 126,773 | 26,794 | 40,698 |
| | 369,281 | 92,286 | 175,606 |
| Totals - - - - | 8,524,096 | 1,831,124 | 3,440,509 |

No. 12.

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO THE TREASURY.

SIR,

21st January 1880.

I AM directed by the Lords Justices to transmit herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the accompanying copy of a letter, dated 13th instant, which His Grace the Lord Lieutenant was authorised to address to the Secretary of the Local Government Board, and which has been communicated by the Local Government Board to such of the Unions as have been scheduled under the Board of Works notice of 22d November last.

In pursuance of the authority thus granted His Grace caused instructions to be drafted for the guidance of the justices and the associated cess payers at extraordinary presentment sessions, and I enclose a copy of the said instructions.

Their Lordships will perceive that it is proposed to limit the works to be presented for to works which it is reasonable to expect may be completed within a period of six months from date of commencement of work, or thereabouts, such works to be approved by the Commissioners of Public Works; and that it is further proposed to advance the money at the rate of one per cent., to be repayable in 15 years, the payment of the first instalment to be postponed for two years and no interest charged during that time.

It is very desirable that the Irish Government should be authorised to issue these instructions with as little delay as possible, as some applications have been already received from Boards of Guardians applying for the convening of presentment sessions to employ the poor in certain baronies in which their Unions are situate.

The Irish Government attach much importance to approved works in distressed districts being undertaken with as little delay as possible, and they hope that their Lordships will at once authorise the Commissioners of Public Works to make such addition to their staff as will enable them to determine, without any unnecessary delay, whether they will approve or disapprove of proposed works.

The Secretary,
Treasury.

I am, &c.

JAMES LOWTHER.

Enclosure (1) No. 12.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 13th January 1880.

1. It has been represented to the Lord Lieutenant that in some distressed districts there is great want of employment for the labouring

classes owing to the inability of the landed proprietors and sanitary authorities to provide sufficient suitable employment for unskilled labour; and that, in consequence of such want of employment, there is reason to anticipate unusual pressure and unavoidable suffering which the ordinary working of the Poor Law and the measures already sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government may not be able to meet.

It has been further represented to his Grace that in the said districts the poor might, in many cases, be profitably employed in—

- (a.) Fencing roads.
- (b.) Widening, repairing, and levelling existing roads.
- (c.) Making new roads.

2. I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government, with the view of promoting and encouraging such employment in distressed districts, have authorised his Grace, upon receiving a representation, through the Local Government Board, from the Board of Guardians of any Union duly scheduled in pursuance of the Board of Works notice of 22nd November last, that there is great want of employment in their Union for unskilled labour, and consequent distress, that there is no reasonable prospect of such want being supplied by either landed proprietors or sanitary authorities, or otherwise, and that profitable employment might be given in their Union upon works defined in paragraph 1 of this letter, and upon being satisfied from a report from the Local Government Board that such representation is correct, to convene an extraordinary meeting of the baronial sessions in which any such Union may be situate, wholly or in part, to present for such useful and profitable works as are specified in the accompanying schedule. His Grace is further authorised to lend money through the Board of Works, on liberal terms, for the immediate execution of such works so presented by the baronial sessions as may be approved by the Commissioners of Public Works.

3. His Grace further desires me to acquaint you that applications for the works specified in the schedule may be made by the Boards of Guardians, or the county surveyor, or two cesspayers of the barony.

I am, &c.

T. H. BURKE.

The Secretary to the
Local Government Board.

Enclosure (2) No. 12.

SCHEDULE OF WORKS for which application may be made at EXTRAORDINARY BARONIAL PRESENTMENT SESSIONS.

1. The repairing of any road or footpath; the lowering a hill or filling a hollow on any road; the building, repairing, or enlarging any bridge on any road, the cost of which shall not exceed 200*l.*, or any pipe, arch, or gullet, of any material, under or on any road; the building or repairing of any breast or retaining wall on any such road; the erecting of any fence, railing, or wall by the side of any road; the filling up grips or trenches near any road; the making, widening, or deepening any trench or drain on the side of any road; making footpaths along any road; and making or repairing any sewer or channel in any road within a village or town.

2. The making of a new road, or the widening of an old road to a breadth not exceeding 40 feet, if the application is accompanied by the written consents of the owners and occupiers of the lands through which the proposed new road would run, or which would be affected by the widening of such old road.

3. Applications for works to be limited to works which it is reasonable to expect may be completed within a period of six months from commencement of work.

Enclosure (3) No. 12

Sir,

Dublin Castle, January 1860.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit to you herewith the accompanying copy of a communication addressed by his Grace's directions to the Local Government Board on 13th inst., and to acquaint you that representations have been made to his Grace by the Guardians of the Poor of the Union of

situate in the barony of

in the County of

that there is great want of employment in the Union and consequent distress, that there is no reasonable prospect of such want being supplied by either landed proprietors or sanitary authorities, or otherwise, and that profitable employment might be given in the Union upon works defined in paragraph 1, and in the schedule of the aforesaid communication.

His Grace is satisfied by the report of the Local Government Board that such representation is correct.

His Grace is authorised by Her Majesty's Government to order the Board of Works to advance, by way of loan, such sums of money as he thinks fit, within certain limits fixed by Her Majesty's Government, to be expended for baronial works of the nature referred to in the said paragraph and schedule, and specified in the accompanying instructions. Loans will be granted on the following conditions:—

1. No interest to be charged for the first two years, and the interest thereafter to be at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum.
2. The period for the repayment of loans to be extended to 15 years, exclusive of the two years for which no interest is to be charged.

The practical effect of the foregoing provisions will be that the annual instalments in repayment of such loans will be at the rate of 7l. 4s. 3d. per cent., including principal and interest for 15 years, to commence two years after grant of loan.

The intention of Her Majesty's Government is, that the money so to be advanced shall be expended on such works as shall be presented by extraordinary presentment sessions of the baronies, for the employment of the poor in such baronies, subject to the conditions laid down by the Government, and set forth in the accompanying instructions, which you will insert forthwith in one or more newspapers circulating in your county. You will please further cause a supplementary supply of these instructions to be printed to enable you to furnish a copy to any persons applying to you for same.

His Grace accordingly requests that you will forthwith convene extraordinary meetings of the baronial presentment sessions of the barony of , to consist of the justices and the associated cesspayers entitled to attend at the ordinary presentment sessions for the barony during the current half-year. His Grace requests that you will, for that purpose, cause notices in the accompanying form to be posted throughout the barony, and that you will publish such further advertisements as may be necessary to apprise the justices, and the associated cesspayers, and the public generally, of the times and places of such extraordinary meetings, and of the nature of the business which will come before them.

In fixing the several days on which the presentment sessions are to meet for the above-named barony, you will appoint as early a day as is consistent with the due publication throughout the county of notice of the intended proceedings, and with the convenience of the justices and cesspayers of the barony, and with the due attendance of the county officers whose presence may be necessary.

His Grace desires me to enclose twenty-five copies of instructions for the presentment sessions, which he requests you will have laid before the sessions at their first meeting.

You will please cause a sufficient number of copies of the schedule attached to the instructions to be printed in a suitable size, and be careful to have the schedule properly filled up for the information of the Board of Works.

A copy of said instructions has been forwarded to the county surveyor for his information and guidance.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

*The Secretary
of the Grand Jury
of the County of _____.*

Enclosure (4) No. 12.

I do hereby give Notice, that I have been authorized by His Grace the Lord Lieutenant to convene an extraordinary meeting of the presentment sessions of the barony of _____, to present for works of the following character for the employment of the poor in the said barony, viz. :—

- Fencing roads.
- Widening, repairing, and levelling existing roads.
- Making new roads.
- Completing old roads.
- Building bridges and channels.

Detailed particulars of the proceedings of the presentment sessions, and of the works for which applications may be made, will be found in the instructions for the justices and associated cesspayers. Copies of these instructions can be obtained on application at my office.

In pursuance of such authority I hereby convene a meeting of the sessions of the aforesaid barony of _____ on the _____ day of _____ at _____ at _____ o'clock.

The presentment sessions shall consist of the Justices and associated cesspayers entitled to attend at the ordinary Presentment Sessions of the Barony during the current half-year.

Intended application for works shall be lodged with the secretary of the grand jury and county surveyor seven days before meeting of presentment Sessions.

Notice in writing of every intended application for works, other than an application by the county surveyor, shall, as far as possible, be posted at the Police Barracks, and at usual places for posting grand jury notices in each parish in which the work is proposed to be executed seven days before meeting of sessions, and no further notice of any application shall be required.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1860.

Secretary of Grand Jury.

Enclosure (5) No. 12.

INSTRUCTION for the JUSTICES and ASSOCIATED CESSPAYERS, at EXTRAORDINARY BARONIAL PRESENTMENT SESSIONS, issued by the AUTHORITY of HIS GRACE the LORD LIEUTENANT.

1. The extraordinary presentment sessions summoned by the authority of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant shall consist of the justices and associated cesspayers entitled to attend at the ordinary presentment sessions for the barony during the current half-year, and shall be held in the same places in

which the last ordinary presentment sessions were held, and shall be constituted in the same way, and shall, as far as possible, conduct their proceedings in all respects in like manner as if they were ordinary presentment sessions acting in execution of the Grand Jury Acts. The county surveyor and the secretary of the grand jury shall, in reference to such extraordinary presentment sessions, comply, as far as possible, with the enactments of the Grand Jury Acts relative to their respective duties.

2. Applications for works of the following character, which it is reasonable to expect may be completed within a period of six months, or thereabouts, from date of commencement of work, and none others, save as herein-after excepted, may be made to the extraordinary presentment sessions. That is to say, the repairing of any road or footpath; the lowering a hill or filling a hollow on any road; the building, repairing, or enlarging any bridge on any road, the cost of which shall not exceed 200*l.* or any pipe, arch, or gullet, of any material, under or on any road; the building or repairing of any breast or retaining wall on any such road; the erecting of any fence, railing, or wall by the side of any road; the filling up grips or trenches near any road; the making, widening, or deepening any trench or drain on the side of any road; the completing of any road duly presented for, but heretofore left uncompleted; making footpaths along any road; and making or repairing any sewer or channel in any road within a village or town.

3. Applications for such works may be made either by the county surveyor, or by any board of guardians, or by any two cesspayers in the barony; and shall, as far as possible, comply with the provisions of the Grand Jury Acts; Provided, that a lodgment of the application by a board of guardians or by two cesspayers, with the secretary of the grand jury and county surveyor, seven days before the meeting of the presentment sessions, shall be sufficient. notice in writing of every intended application, other than applications by the county surveyor, shall, as far as possible, be posted at the police barracks, and at the usual places for posting grand jury notices in each parish in which the work is proposed to be executed; and no further notice of any application shall be required.

4. The extraordinary presentment sessions may, in addition to the works specified in paragraph 2, entertain any application for the making of a new road or the widening of an old road, to a breadth not exceeding forty feet, or the completion of any road left uncompleted and not duly presented for, provided it is reasonable to expect such works may be completed within a period of six months or thereabouts from commencement of work, if such application is accompanied by the written consents of the owners and occupiers of the lands through which the proposed new road would run, or which would be affected by the widening or completion of such old road, and may proceed in reference to such application in the same manner as they are hereby directed to proceed in respect to other applications. If any such works are undertaken, the grand jury at the next or any subsequent assizes, without any previous application to presentment sessions, may present such sums as they think fit for the loss suffered by such owners and occupiers by the making of such works. Such owners and occupiers shall be entitled to traverse for damages.

5. When the presentment sessions have approved of any application, they may, if they think fit, forthwith resolve that the work shall be carried out by the county surveyor. Or they may cause the necessary plans and specifications and forms of tenders to be prepared, and take the other steps which may be necessary to have the work executed by contract. In that case, they shall adjourn to some convenient day which they shall appoint, and at such adjourned meeting shall receive tenders, and may accept any tender which they think fit, or, if no tender, or no tender which they think proper to accept, has been made, may then give the work in charge to the county surveyor.

6. As soon as any application for any work has been approved, the Secretary of the grand jury shall forthwith forward to the Commissioners of Public Works a statement of the particulars of the proposed work, as near as may be in the form annexed to these instructions. The Commissioners of Public Works shall forthwith, having made such inquiry as may appear to them to be necessary, notify to the secretary of the grand jury whether they approve or disapprove of the proposed work. If they disapprove wholly

of the proposed work, all agreements in relation thereto shall be void, and no further steps shall be taken to carry out the presentment. If they disapprove partly of the proposed works, only such portions as shall not be disapproved may be executed, and if the presentment sessions think fit to proceed with such portions of the work not disapproved as aforesaid, all agreements in relation thereto shall be altered accordingly, and the work may be then proceeded with as an approved work. If they approve of the work, they will be authorised by the Lord Lieutenant to advance the amount which the work is estimated to cost, and to lodge the same to the credit of the barony, by such instalments as they think proper. They will also be authorised to advance the amount that may be presented, whether after traverse or otherwise, to owners and occupiers, under the provisions of Article 4 of these instructions, and also all incidental expenses properly presented by the extraordinary presentment sessions, such as advertising, printing, or clerical work. It is intended that the amount so advanced shall be a charge upon the barony, and shall be repaid in . . . years, with interest thereon, at the rate of . . . per cent. per annum, and shall, when due, be collected in each half year by the barony constable. The payment of the first instalment will be postponed for two years, and no interest charged during that time. Receipts will be given by the barony constable, showing the amount paid in each half year by each cesspayer, and where the cesspayer is liable to pay a rent in respect of any premises charged with any such amount, he shall be entitled to make such deduction from his rent as if the sum was paid on account of Poor Rate. Any unexpended balances of the funds so provided by order of the Lord Lieutenant, which may be in the hand of the treasurer or bank, after payment of such sums as may be properly chargeable thereon, shall be repaid to the Commissioners of Public Works, and the barony shall be relieved from the charge to the extent of the balances so repaid.

7. When any work is given in charge to the county surveyor, payments to the persons employed in the work shall be made from time to time by the standing committee of the extraordinary presentment sessions appointed in the manner herein-after provided in such manner as the standing committee shall direct.

When any work has been undertaken by a contractor, the standing committee shall pay, from time to time, during the execution of the work, on the application of the contractor, such instalments of the amount presented by the extraordinary presentment sessions as the county surveyor may certify him to be properly entitled to. Every contractor, at the time of entering into his Contract, shall sign an undertaking in writing, that he will employ in the work persons resident in the district in priority to persons from other parts of the country, so far as is reasonably possible for him to do. Where any work is given in charge to the county surveyor, he shall act upon the same principle, under the directions and guidance of the extraordinary presentment sessions and their standing committee, so far as it is reasonably possible for him to do.

8. The county surveyor may, if he thinks fit, apply to the extraordinary presentment sessions to authorize him to employ for a limited period such one or more clerks, or additional assistants, at such rate of remuneration, as the presentment sessions may think proper. If the presentment sessions accede to such application, the county surveyor shall so report to the Commissioners of Public Works, who may confirm or annul the presentment, with such modifications and subject to such conditions as they think fit. The remuneration of such clerks and additional assistants shall be advanced by the said Commissioners in the same manner as is herein-before provided in reference to the estimated cost of any work, and the sum so advanced shall be a charge on the barony, and shall be repaid as directed in Article 6 of these instructions.

9. The extraordinary presentment sessions may adjourn from time to time, as they think proper; and where the Grand Jury Act prescribes that any adjournment shall be of any fixed length, or that any proceedings relative to the making of presentments for works shall be taken at any particular time, or not sooner than any particular time, it shall be competent for the extra-

ordinary presentment sessions to vary the time so fixed, and to appoint any time for the doing of any act, or the taking of any proceeding at their absolute discretion. The extraordinary presentment sessions may dispense with any notices, advertisements, forms of application, or other proceedings which appear to them likely to cause any delay in approving of or proceeding with any work. The extraordinary presentment sessions shall also meet whenever convened by public notice by the secretary of the grand jury.

The extraordinary presentment sessions shall, at their first meeting, or any subsequent meeting, appoint one or more standing committees of members of their own body, whether present at their first meeting or not, each standing committee to be not less than five in number, who shall meet from time to time, as they think fit. They shall report to the extraordinary presentment sessions as to the execution of any works in progress, or as to any new works which, in their opinion, might be properly applied for by the county surveyor, or otherwise, in accordance with these instructions. Provision shall be made by the Commissioners of Public Works that all moneys advanced by them shall be kept to a separate credit by the bank in which such moneys shall be lodged; and payments shall be made thereout upon the check of the county treasurer, or the secretary of the grand jury when a bank is such treasurer. No such check shall be given by such treasurer or secretary, save upon a certificate signed by two or more members of the standing committee stating the amount to be paid and the person to whom payment is to be made. The standing committee shall arrange to meet as often as may be necessary to enable them to make payments from time to time, as may be required, and to receive frequent reports from the county surveyor as to the progress of the works. They shall regulate the disbursement of the funds provided by Her Majesty's Government. The county surveyor and other county officers shall co-operate with the standing committee in promoting the due execution of all works presented by the extraordinary presentment sessions. The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the extraordinary presentment sessions, and of their standing committee, shall be audited by the auditor of the Local Government Board in the same manner as Grand Jury accounts are now audited.

10. As soon as Parliament meets, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to introduce a Bill to confirm all the presentments made at such extraordinary presentment sessions, which have been approved by the Commissioners of Public Works as above set forth.

And to make provision for the repayment of such advances upon the terms above stated, and for the auditing of the baronial accounts.

And to provide for the remuneration of all county officers in respect of their duties at such extraordinary presentment sessions, and in execution of such presentments, so far as may be proper.

And for such other purposes, in relation to such works, as may be necessary.

Journal of

Statement of PARTICIPANTS of Works provided by the INTERNATIONAL PATENTWORKERS ASSOCIATION for the above-mentioned BANCOT held at _____
on the _____ day of _____, 1980, and recommended for the Approval of the COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS.

| No. | Statement of Particulars of Work. | By whom applied for. | Dates or Dates to which account. | Estimated Cost. | | | | Who else to be concerned by Census, Surveyor or by Landlord. | Observations. |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|--|---------------|
| | | | | Roads. | | Other Works. | | | |
| | | | | Cost per Yard. | Total Cost. | Cost. | Total Cost of Work. | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Cost. | | | | | | | | | |

I certify the above Belgians to be correct.

Secretary of Great Lakes

[illegible]

TREASURY MINUTE, dated 28th January 1880.

My Lords read a letter from the Irish Government, dated the 21st instant, from which it appears that His Grace the Lord Lieutenant has been authorised by Her Majesty's Government to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Baronial Sessions in which any Union duly scheduled in pursuance of the Board of Works Order of 22d November last is situate in order to present for certain useful and profitable works, and that his Grace had been further authorised to lend money, through the Board of Works, on liberal terms, for the immediate execution of such works when approved by the Board of Works. The Irish Government ask the Treasury to permit the Board of Works to make such addition to their staff as will enable them to decide quickly on the works submitted for approval.

The First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer state to the Board that Her Majesty's advisers decided upon the above-named measures after mature consideration, and that they gave authority to the Lord Lieutenant to give notice accordingly.

They point out that this extension of relief measures will involve larger expenditure, and that Her Majesty's advisers have in consequence increased the sum to be advanced from 250,000*l.*, as named in the Minute of 12th January, to 500,000*l.* They suggest that these measures, so far as they are financial, should be confirmed by the Board, and that the necessary authority should be given to the Board of Works.

My Lords concur.

Let a telegram be sent to the Irish Government authorising issue of the Circular, and instructions on the subject of baronial presentments, and let the necessary authority be given to the Board of Works.

THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO THE TREASURY.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 24th January 1880.

1. I am directed by the Lords Justices to transmit herewith, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, copy of a letter addressed to his Grace the Lord Lieutenant by Lord Rmly as Chairman of the Board of Guardians of Limerick Union, which has not been scheduled, urging that certain alterations should be made in the conditions on which loans are procurable from the Board of Works for the improvement of land, especially (1) that the period for the repayment of drainage and fencing loans should be extended to 35 years, and (2) that the borrower should not be charged for any preliminary expenses incurred by the Board of Works—together with copy of a report from the Board of Works thereon.

2. I am also to enclose a copy of a communication addressed to the Secretary of the Commissioners of Public Works by three most influential land agents who manage the affairs of some of the largest estates in Ireland, and are intimately acquainted with the real wants of the country, recommending that as a general rule, proprietors should have the option to borrow for all purposes contemplated in the Land Improvement Acts on the 35 years and 5 per cent. system.

3. In consequence of these and other communications, their Excellencies have been led (irrespective of the exceptional advantages under which these loans are to be advanced, for the purposes of relief, to landowners in distressed districts, during the course of the current year) to consider generally the rule upon which their Lordships have hitherto acted in requiring loans for drainage to be repaid by a rentcharge of 6½ per cent., which pays off interest and principal in 22 years, and their Excellencies desire me to submit the following observations on the subject.

4. It would appear that in year 1865, the Select Committee, appointed to inquire into the question of Irish Taxation, recommended that it should be

made optional with the proprietors of land to borrow money on the terms at present in force, viz. subject to repayments of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 22 years, or subject to repayments of 5 per cent. for such a number of years as would be necessary to repay the sums borrowed with the same rate of interest as that at present charged.

This recommendation appears to have been favourably considered by Parliament, an Act (29 & 30 Vict. c. 40.) having been passed in the ensuing year enabling the Commissioners of Public Works, with the sanction of the Treasury, to make advances for drainage repayable by a rentcharge of 5 per cent. for 35 years.

The subject was also considered by the Committee which was recently appointed to inquire into the Board of Works, and the Committee made the following suggestions thereon:—

“ With a view therefore of giving fresh encouragement in this direction to landlords, we suggest for consideration the propriety of assisting applicants under the Acts who require money for drainage and analogous purposes, on the more reasonable terms already accorded to loans for buildings, namely, the repayment to be within 35 years instalments of 5 per cent. on the sum borrowed. Such power is reserved to the Commissioners under 29 & 30 Vict., cap. 40., sec. 3. We are aware that exception may be taken to our suggestion on the ground that the longer are the charges with which an estate is encumbered the less marketable is the estate; and it may be urged that any steps taken to extend the term of repayment over a more lengthened period, tend to render the free transfer of land more difficult. We may, however, add that the Committee of the House of Lords in 1873 went so far as to recommend that owners should be enabled to spread the repayment of the charge over a period equal to ten years more than their own expectation of life, according to selected tables—such period in no case to exceed forty or be less than twenty-five years.”

Under the circumstances, their Excellencies are anxious that their Lordships should reconsider the course hitherto adopted by them in respect to drainage loans, and would recommend their Lordships to sanction an arrangement by which an option may be given to proprietors of land to borrow for all purposes contemplated by the Land Improvement Acts on the 35 years and 5 per cent. system, if they so think fit.

Their Excellencies presume that the present system of requiring loans for drainage to be repaid by a rentcharge of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. which pays off interest and principal in 22 years, is mainly founded upon the assumption that the benefit to be derived from drainage works does not last beyond 22 years, and that it is not equitable to charge the remainder-man with the expense of a work from which he derives no benefit.

Their Excellencies are not, however, prepared to admit that this is generally the case, and they are advised that the benefit derived from drainage works well executed at the beginning, and well kept, lasts considerably over 22 years.

Having regard to the general improvement of the country, their Excellencies attach much importance to every encouragement being given to landowners to avail themselves of the provisions of the Land Improvement Acts, and their Excellencies trust that their Lordships will give the matter their favourable consideration, and act upon the powers given to them under section 3 of 29 & 30 Vict. cap. 40.

I am, &c.

JAMES LOWTHER.

The Secretary to the Treasury,
Whitehall, S.W.

No. 15.

The TREASURY to the IRISH GOVERNMENT.

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, 31st January 1880.

IN reply to your letter of the 24th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter from Lord Emily, as Chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Limerick Union, which has not been scheduled, together with copy of a report from

the Board of Works thereon, and of a communication from certain land agents, who are described as managing some of the largest estates in Ireland, relative to certain alterations proposed to be made in the conditions on which loans are procurable from the Board of Works, I am directed by my Lords to request you to inform His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, that they have given their special attention to the fact that, as these proposals relate to parts of Ireland which have not been scheduled as distressed, they, therefore, require to be, and admit of being, considered upon their own merits, even at the present time.

Of the three proposals made by Lord Emly, my Lords observe that the recommendation in the letter under reply appears to be confined to that one in which his Lordship urges that the period for the repayment of drainage and fencing loans be extended to 35 years, in pursuance of which their Excellencies the Lords Justices advise my Lords to sanction an arrangement for making it optional to proprietors of land to borrow for all purposes contemplated by the Land Improvement Acts on the 35 years and 5 per cent. system, if they so think fit.

You refer my Lords to the powers given to them under section 3. of the Act 29 & 30 Vict., cap. 40., and my Lords are so far disposed to adopt the advice of the Lords Justices that they have instructed the Public Works Commissioners, if they are of opinion that the section quoted warrants their doing so, to make loans for drainage works upon the same terms as loans are now made for buildings, clearing lands of rocks, and planting for shelter, that is to say, on condition of repayment in 35 years by annual instalments combining principal and interest at the rate of 5 per cent. in cases where this condition of repayment is preferred to instalments of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 22 years.

My Lords think it will be sufficient to extend this option to drainage works only.

The concession is scarcely consistent with recent measures whereby my Lords have raised the rate of interest in a certain proportion to the length of the period over which repayment is spread, and they would have hesitated to make such a concession, but for the legislation to which you refer them, as well as the recommendation in connexion with it.

As regards preliminary expenses, my Lords see no sufficient reason why, beyond the scheduled unions, the applicants for loans should not bear the cost of the inquiries, without which it would be unreasonable to expect them to be made. The Public Works Commissioners are already aware that it is the wish of my Lords that the process of obtaining loans for land improvements in Ireland should be facilitated and simplified as far as is consistent with security, and some of Lord Emly's suggestions appear to my Lords to turn upon points respecting which the Commissioners must be left to judge for themselves, at their own discretion, and on their own responsibility, whether the present practice admits of improvement.

I am, &c.

The Chief Secretary
for Ireland.

(Signed) R. W. LINGEN.

P.S.—A copy of this letter has been sent to the Public Works Commissioners.

No. 16.

The TREASURY to the COMMISSIONERS of PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND.

GENTLEMEN,

Treasury Chambers, 31st January 1880.

ADVERTING to the subject of your letter to the Under Secretary for Ireland, dated the 1st instant, upon the subject of a letter from Lord Emly, Chairman of the Limerick Board of Guardians, I am directed to furnish you with the enclosed copy of a letter, which my Lords are causing to be addressed by this post to the Chief Secretary, for your information and guidance.

I am at the same time to call your particular attention to the first paragraph in page XXIV, and to the second paragraph in page XXV, of the report of

Lord Crichton's committee, and to remind you that my Lords in their letter to the Chief Secretary have assumed that the Act 29 & 30 Vict. cap. 40, s. 3. is not confined to the particular works mentioned in the paragraph at the top of page XXIV, but extends if my Lords choose to extend it to all the purposes which are enumerated at the beginning of chapter V. of the Committee's Report, page XXIII.

If my Lords have at all misapprehended the state of the law, you should immediately see Mr. Lowther before any action is taken upon the letter addressed to him, and you should telegraph at once to my Lords for further instructions.

The Commissioners of Public
Works, Ireland.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. R. W. LINGEN.

No. 17.

The IRISH GOVERNMENT to the TREASURY.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 28th January, 1880.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, as requested in your letter of the 12th instant, a copy of a Bill of Indemnity which has been prepared to render valid certain proceedings which have been taken for the relief of distress in Ireland, and to make further provisions for such distress, and for other purposes.

Their Lordships will observe that His Grace proposes to leave blank for the present the sums to which advances to landed proprietors and sanitary authorities and to baronies are to be limited; and he desires me to submit to their Lordships the following observations on the subject.

His Grace understood from his communications with Her Majesty's advisers as to the measures to be taken to relieve distress in certain districts in Ireland, that the sum of 250,000*l.* mentioned in the Board of Works' notice of 12th instant was granted for works applied for under that notice, and was not intended to include works previously applied for under the notice of 22nd November last.

I transmit herewith a return which has been received from the Board of Works, from which it would appear that the amount of the publications under the two notices are as follows:—

I.—AMOUNT applied for under the PUBLIC NOTICE of 22nd November 1879 to 12th January 1880.

| | £ |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Landed Proprietors (Loans) - - - - | 113,735 |
| Sanitary Authorities (Loans) - - - - | 14,446 |
| | <u>£128,181</u> |

II.—AMOUNT applied for under the PUBLIC NOTICE of 12th January, 1880.

| | £ |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Landed Proprietors (Loans) - - - - | 120,753 |
| Sanitary Authorities (Loans) - - - - | 35,360 |
| | <u>£156,113</u> |

It would therefore appear that applications have been received for loans already amounting on the whole to £284,314.

His Grace would propose that their Lordships should for the present authorise a sum not exceeding 500,000*l.* to be advanced for all purposes of relief, without specifying how much is to be appropriated to sanitary and land improvement works, or to works presented by extraordinary presentment sessions.

His Grace is unable to say whether any grant in addition to the above sum will be necessary, and he reserves to himself full liberty to apply for such additional sum as, in his opinion, may be required to relieve distress in Ireland.

The Secretary,
Treasury, London.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAMES LOWTHER.

No. 18.

The TREASURY to the IRISH GOVERNMENT.

SIR,

Treasury Chambers, 31st January 1880.

I AM directed by my Lords to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, enclosing a copy of the proposed Bill of Indemnity to render valid certain proceedings which have been taken for the relief of distress in Ireland, and to make further provision for such distress, and for other purposes, in which letter you also state that his Grace the Lord Lieutenant proposes that my Lords should for the present authorise a sum, not exceeding half a million sterling, to be advanced for all purposes of relief, without specifying how much is to be appropriated to sanitary and land improvement works, or to works presented by extraordinary presentment sessions.

I am to inform you in reply to this letter that my Lords agree to his Grace's proposal, as stated above, on the understanding that the utmost care will be taken not to exhaust the loan fund in extensive works at a few points, which will leave others unprovided for.

You are aware that the works which it has been the object of the Irish Government and of the Treasury to encourage are such as could be completed in about six months, and my Lords desire to observe that, under a system of judicious administration, a fund of half a million should go far, even irrespectively of the purely charitable assistance which has been given, to afford adequate means of support during the period indicated to the population in the scheduled unions.

The Chief Secretary
for Ireland.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. R. W. LINGEN.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

MEASURES FOR THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

1879—80.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1880.

[C.—2506.] *Price 1d.*

CONTENTS.

| | |
|---|------------|
| Additional instructions for Presentment Sessions - - - - - | Page. 3 |
| Letter to Secretary, Grand Jury, forwarding instructions of Standing Committees - - | 3 |
| Instructions for Standing Committees - - - - - | 3 |
| Letter to Commissioners of Public Works as to desirability of works being done by contract | 4 |
| Letter to Secretary of Grand Jury as to same - - - - - | 5 |
| Letter from Board of Works, with copy instructions to Inspecting Engineers, and form for statement to be annexed to each application approved at Sessions - - - - - | 5 |
| Form enclosed with same - - - - - | 6 |
| Instructions for Inspecting Engineers enclosed with above - - - - - | 6 |
| Circular issued by Board of Works to Inspecting Engineers as to noting discussion at Sessions relative to work being done by contract, &c. - - - - - | 8 |

Further Correspondence relative to Measures for the Relief of Distress in Ireland, 1879-80.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS for the JUSTICES and ASSOCIATED CESSPAYERS at EXTRAORDINARY PRESENTMENT SESSIONS, issued by the authority of HIS GRACE THE LORD LIEUTENANT.

1. In addition to the works mentioned in Articles 2 and 4 of the Instructions for the Justices and Associated CessPAYERS at Extraordinary Baronial Presentment Sessions, heretofore issued by the authority of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, the extraordinary presentment sessions may apply themselves, or entertain applications for such works of a public nature to be carried out within the limits of the barony for which such extraordinary presentment sessions shall be held as in their opinion shall be beneficial to such barony.

2. If the presentment sessions shall apply for or approve of any such application as last aforesaid, the secretary of the grand jury shall forthwith forward the said application so applied for or approved of to the Under Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant.

3. In the event of such application being approved of by the Lord Lieutenant and the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, His Grace shall cause such approval and consent to be signified under the hand of his Chief or Under Secretary to the secretary of the grand jury, who shall bring the same to the notice of an adjourned meeting of the presentment sessions, and thereupon the said sessions shall take the same measures for the purpose of carrying out the said works which are specified in the fifth and following articles of the said instructions heretofore issued in reference to the works therein referred to, provided always that such work shall not be carried out by the county surveyor, but shall be executed by contract.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, 13th February 1880.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith the accompanying copy of instructions for the guidance of standing committees appointed by baronial sessions, issued by the authority of His Grace, and to request you will lay same before the extraordinary presentment sessions, and invite their special attention to it.

A copy of the instructions has been forwarded to county surveyor for his information and guidance.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary of the Grand Jury
of the county of

EXTRAORDINARY BARONIAL SESSIONS.

INSTRUCTIONS for the GUIDANCE of STANDING COMMITTEES issued by the authority of HIS GRACE THE LORD LIEUTENANT.

It will be the duty of the presentment sessions to appoint as directed in the instructions for justices, &c., one or more standing committees to conduct all general and financial business in connexion with the employment of the men and progress of the works presented for in the barony, and the sessions should make a presentment for such sum as may be considered necessary to cover the cost of the staff and all incidental expenses which the standing committee or committees will require for the discharge of their functions.

The duties of the standing committee will be to see that the general instructions which have been issued in regard to the mode of carrying out the works, the persons employed, the rate of wages paid in any case where the execution of the work by day-work is sanctioned, &c., are duly attended to; to receive reports from the county surveyor as to the progress of the

Appointments of standing committees by presentment sessions.

Provision to be made to cover part of staff and incidental expenses of standing committees.

Duties of standing committees.

works; to make such order in respect thereto as they may think necessary, and to authorise payments being made.

For this purpose it will be necessary for each committee to provide a clerk, and in some cases a pay clerk, the former to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the committee, conduct all correspondence, check all claims sent in for payment, keep accounts of expenditure, and perform such other clerical work as the committee may require, and the latter to make the payments as herein-after instructed.

The appointment of such clerks and their rate of pay is to be subject to the approval of the Commissioners of Public Works, in like manner as to the county surveyor's clerk and assistants; and in all cases where the appointment of a pay clerk may be necessary, he will be required to give such security as the standing committee may think proper for the due discharge of his duties.

It will be the duty of the county surveyor to examine and certify all accounts and claims for payment, and to transmit them without delay to the clerk of the standing committee, who is to check the calculations, certify as to their correctness by signing the account, and then prepare a schedule of the several accounts to be paid, in the form annexed, and submit it at the first meeting of the standing committee, together with the accounts for examination, bearing in mind that the schedule of payments to be made is to be certified by two or more members of the committee.

This schedule, when so certified, together with all accounts referred to, is to be forwarded to the treasurer of the county, or in those cases where a bank is the treasurer, to the secretary of the grand jury, whose duty it will be to fill up cheques in favour of the several persons, and for the sums set forth in the schedule, and pay them on demand, getting the usual voucher therefor.

When the carrying out of any work by day-work has been authorised, the name of the pay clerk appointed by the standing committee is to be inserted in the schedule as the person to whom the payment is to be made in respect of such work; and the treasurer of the county or the secretary of the grand jury, as the case may be, is to forward to the pay clerk a cheque for the amount necessary to make the payment which has been authorised by the standing committee in respect thereof; and the said pay clerk is to account, by vouchers duly receipted, to the treasurer of the county or secretary of the grand jury, as the case may be, for all moneys received by him for that purpose within one week from the date of his receipt for the money.

It will be desirable for the standing committee to agree upon a fixed day for their meetings, either weekly or fortnightly, and arrange with the county officers so that no unavoidable delay will take place in making the payments. The treasurer of the county will be instructed to make such arrangements on his part as will prevent delay arising in his making the payments authorised.

Srs,

Dublin Castle, 7th February 1880.

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith, for the information and guidance of the Commissioners of Public Works, copy of a letter addressed this day by His Grace's desire to the respective secretaries of the grand juries of the counties of Cork and Limerick; and I am to state that His Grace will cause similar letters to be addressed to the county surveyors and to the secretaries of grand juries of other counties in which extraordinary meetings of baronial presentment sessions will be held. His Grace requests that a copy of that letter shall be sent to inspecting engineers for their information and guidance, and he also requests that the inspecting engineers may be directed to note specially any discussion which may take place at presentment sessions as to the mode in which it is proposed to carry out any work, viz., whether by contract or sub-contract or piece-work or daily wages, and draw the special attention of the presentment sessions to the necessity of their having works executed by contract or sub-contract or piece-work whenever it is possible to do so.

If any work has in exceptional cases to be executed by labourers at daily wages, His Grace thinks it important that in such cases, to prevent abuse, the

wages should be fixed below the ordinary wages for agricultural work in the district.

The Secretary to the Commissioners
of Public Works.

I am, &c.,
T. H. BURKE.

SIR,

Dublin Castle, February 1880.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to transmit herewith for your information and guidance, copy of a letter from the Board of Works, and copy of instructions prepared for the inspecting engineers of the Board, in reference to the extraordinary baronial presentment sessions. I am to request that you will be careful to annex to each application approved at such sessions a statement in the form annexed to the Commissioners' letter, such statement to be signed by the chairman of the sessions and by yourself; and also that you will forward certified copies of the approved applications and annexed statements to the Commissioners of Public Works, accompanied by a certified copy of the tender accepted for the work at the adjourned sessions in those cases in which it has been determined to execute it by contract.

His Grace desires me to state that it is in his opinion very desirable that works presented for by the presentment sessions should, as far as possible, be executed by contract; and, if given to the county surveyor, that they should be executed by sub-contract or piece-work with the county surveyor, subject to the approval of the presentment sessions or standing committee; and he has directed instructions to be given to the Commissioners of Public Works not to approve of any works being done except by contract or sub-contract or piece-work, unless they are satisfied that the work cannot otherwise be properly executed, and that where the work shall be executed by day labour, that the wages shall be fixed at such a rate as shall not increase the ordinary rate of wages in the district.

His Grace requests that you will lay a copy of this letter before each presentment sessions, and invite their special attention to it.

I am, &c.,

The Secretary to the Grand Jury
of the county of .

SIR,

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
6th February 1880.

I AM directed to forward, for the information of His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, copies of instructions for the Board's inspecting engineers, and to state that the Board think it advisable that a copy of these instructions should be forwarded by the Irish Government for the information of the secretary of the grand jury in each county in which extraordinary sessions have been convened; and that he should at the same time be informed that it will be necessary to annex to each application approved at sessions a statement in the enclosed form, signed by the chairman of the sessions and by the secretary of the grand jury, and that a certified copy of the approved application and annexed statement is to be forwarded to the Commissioners of Public Works, accompanied by a certified copy of the tender accepted for the work at the adjourned sessions, in those cases in which it has been determined to execute it by contract.

When forwarding to the Commissioners of Public Works the certified copies referred to, the secretary of the grand jury should make such application to the Board as the sessions may direct in regard to the instalments in which it will be desirable and convenient that the amount of the presentment authorised should be advanced, and to state the bank in which such instalments are to be lodged to the credit of the county treasurer.

The Under Secretary,
Dublin Castle.

I am, &c.,
H. HORNSBY,
Secretary.

County of _____

Barony of _____

Extraordinary Presentment Sessions held at _____
on the _____ 1880.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-------|
| 1. No. of application | - | - | - | _____ |
| 2. By whom made | - | - | - | _____ |
| 3. Amount approved to be expended | - | | | _____ |
| 4. Whether to be executed by contract | - | | | _____ |
| or | | | | |
| 5. Whether to be executed by county surveyor, and if so, whether by sub-contract, piece-work, or day-work | - | | | _____ |
| If the latter | | | | |
| 6. Maximum rate of wages to be paid to the labourers employed | - | - | - | _____ |

Chairman.

_____ day of _____ 1880.

Secretary of Grand Jury.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,

Sir, 1880.

EXTRAORDINARY presentment sessions having been summoned by his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, to be held at _____ for the barony of _____ in the county of _____

on the _____ next, I have to request that you will proceed to that barony and report, without loss of time, on any works that may be presented for, a statement giving the particulars of which will be forwarded to you in due course.

With the view of expediting your inquiry, the Board consider it desirable that you should, without waiting to be furnished with the statement of the particulars of the works presented for, attend the baronial sessions, and though not taking any part in the proceedings or expressing any opinion in respect of any work applied for, note any discussion that may take place, and report briefly the general opinion of the sessions in regard to the utility of each work presented for, and the necessity of providing the employment which it is calculated to afford.

A statement of the several loans recently made, or which are about being made by this Board to landed proprietors and sanitary authorities in the above barony, is forwarded herewith, and you are requested to submit this statement to the chairman of the extraordinary baronial presentment sessions, so that the court may have before it the fullest information as to the means which will be thus afforded for giving employment in the district, and be in a position to judge how far it may be desirable to supplement them.

It will be the duty of the sessions in all cases where it is contemplated to carry out works by day labour, to fix the maximum rate of wages which they

recommend being paid; and when it is proposed to execute the work by contract, the amount to be paid for such work should, as far as possible, be based upon that rate of wages. If necessary, you should draw the attention of the court to the necessity of their complying with this regulation.

The points to which you will direct your particular attention, and upon which you are requested to report, are as follows:—

1. The reasonableness of the rate of wages as recommended by the sessions to be paid for labour, looking to the ordinary price of labour in the district. This Board will, in confirming any presentment for a work which is to be carried out by day labour, approve or modify the maximum rate of wages so recommended to be paid, which rate cannot subsequently be exceeded without their authority.

2. The general utility of the work,—whether it is of a character that will confer permanent benefit on the locality, commensurate with its costs, either by affording improved means of communication or in diminishing the costs of future maintenance.

3. The reasonableness of the estimate for the work, and whether that estimate is increased, and to what extent, so far as you can judge, in consequence of the mode in which it may be contemplated to carry out the work as a means of affording employment in the district during the period of distress.

4. The probable length of time required for the completion of the work, making due allowance for the labour which will be required for the ordinary spring agricultural work in the district.

5. Should you arrive at the opinion that the execution of any work which has been presented for will not be attended with benefit commensurate to its cost, but that from the representations made at the baronial sessions, or from information derived from other official source, there appears to be a necessity of affording employment in the immediate district in which the work referred to is situated, and no other means of obtaining it, you are fully to report the circumstances.

Immediately on the closing of the sessions you will proceed to make such inspections of the works presented for as you may consider necessary, and furnish your report with the greatest possible despatch, accompanied with the 6" Ordnance sheets, showing as fully and clearly as you can the position of each work, and indicating it by numbers in red ink corresponding with those in your report, and you will be careful to draw attention to any of the loans made, or about being made by this Board to landed proprietors or sanitary authorities (the list of which has been furnished to you) in the immediate locality of any work that has been presented for, and furnish any information you can obtain as to the progress made or likely to be made, so far as you can learn, in carrying out such work.

Copies of the Ordnance sheet for the barony will be supplied to you, and a copy of the instructions for the justices and associated cesspayers at their extraordinary sessions is forwarded herewith for your information.

The county surveyor and the secretary of the grand jury will be informed of your having been appointed for this service, and the Board rely upon your energy in performing it with the utmost despatch, and in affording each clear and explicit explanation as will place them in a position to arrive at a correct judgment as to the utility or necessity of the works presented for.

I am further to direct your special attention to the following extract from a letter from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Chief Secretary for Ireland, received here on the 3rd inst. :—

"You also state that His Grace the Lord Lieutenant proposes that my Lords should, for the present, authorise a sum, not exceeding half a million sterling, to be advanced for all purposes of relief, without specifying how much is to be appropriated to sanitary and land improvement works, or to works presented by extraordinary presentment sessions.

"I am to inform you, in reply to this letter, that my Lords agree to His Grace's proposal, as stated above, on the understanding that the utmost care will be taken not to exhaust the loan fund in extensive works at a few points which will leave others unprovided for.

"You are aware that the works, which it has been the object of the Irish

Government and of the Treasury to encourage, are such as could be completed in about six months."

I am, &c.,
EDWARD HORNSBY,
Secretary.

CIRCULAR to INSPECTING ENGINEERS.

Office of Public Works, Dublin,
10th February 1880.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Board to send herewith a copy of a letter dated 7th inst., addressed by the Under Secretary to the secretary of the grand jury of the county of Cork, and to request that you will note specially any discussion which may take place at presentment sessions as to the mode in which it is proposed to carry out any work, viz., whether by contract or sub-contract or piece-work or daily wages, and draw the special attention of the presentment sessions to the necessity of their having works executed by contract, or sub-contract, or piece-work whenever it is possible to do so.

If any work has in exceptional cases to be executed by labourers at daily wages, His Grace thinks it important that in such cases, to prevent abuse, the wages should be fixed below the ordinary wages for agricultural work in the district.

I am, &c.,
E. HORNSBY,
Secretary.